GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:486
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2016
Passport Melas
Danve Shri Raosaheb Patil;Kumar Shri Kunwar Sarvesh

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the difficulties being faced by the applicants due to delay in issuing of passport as timely appointment is not given by Passport Seva Kendras and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether passport melas have been organized by various passport offices in the recent past;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of number of applications disposed of in passport melas separately;

(d) whether there is any proposal to organise such passport melas in various parts of the country particularly in Moradabad in near future; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
[GEN. (DR) V. K. SINGH (RETD)]

(a) The Ministry has been working continuously to improve availability of appointment by taking various steps including organizing Passport Melas and Passport Seva Camps at week-ends; allowing 'Walk-in' facility for certain categories of services such as Tatkaal passports, Police Clearance Certificates and other miscellaneous services and to Senior citizens (above 60 years) and differently-abled persons for all services; and introduction of online advance payment for seeking appointment to minimize 'no-shows'. These measures have resulted in substantial improvement in availability of appointments.

As on 30th June 2016, out of 89 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs), appointments were available in 53 PSKs within 1 calendar day, 22 PSKs within 2 to 7 days, 10 PSKs within 8 to 14 days, 2 PSKs within 15 to 21 days and 2 PSKs from 22 to 30 days.

Comparatively, as on 1st September, 2014, out of 77 PSKs operational at that time, appointments were available in 29 PSKs within 7 days, in 11 PSKs within 8 to 14 days, in 11 PSKs within 15 to 21 days, in 10 PSKs between 22 to 30 days and in 16 PSKs beyond 30 days.

(b) & (c) Yes. Passport Melas have been organized by various Passport Offices in the recent past. During January - June 2016, 98 Passport Melas have been organized on weekends by various Passport Offices where 59,749 passports applications have been processed. The passport Office−wise details are annexed.

(d) & (e) The Passport Melas would continue to be organized by the concerned Passport Offices on need basis in their respective PSKs across the country. Since Passport Melas are held at the PSKs, it cannot be held at Moradabad as there is no PSK there. However, Passport Seva Camps can be organized if there are adequate passport applications from Moradabad necessitating organization of such camps. One such camp was held at Moradabad on 29-30 November, 2014 wherein 166 applications were processed.